

# SECRET

1. A method of forming a peer-to-peer, scalable bandwidth connection between a first computer system and a second computer system each connected to a public computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing at least one physical point-to-point link between the second computer system and the public computer network, the second computer system link having a network address that is possibly unknown to the first computer system;

establishing a superior virtual circuit between the first computer system and the second computer system, the superior virtual circuit comprising a plurality of inferior virtual circuits, each inferior virtual circuit including at least one unique physical point-to-point link not used by any other virtual link;

wherein the bandwidth available to the superior virtual circuit is equal to the minimum aggregate bandwidth of the available physical point-to-point links between either the first or second computer system.

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